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Subject: Proceedings of a public meeting at Davanegere on 1/9/46 under the presidentship of K.T. Pambanna local Congress workers and the Speeches of M/s. K Hanumanthiah T.T. Sharma on the occasion

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General and Revenue

Secretariat.

Confidential Branch.

SUBJECT Proceedings of a Public Meeting at Davangere on 1-9-46. under the Presidentship of Mr. K. T. Jambanna a local Congress worker and the Speeches of Messrs. K. Hanumanthiah and T. T. Sharma on the occasion.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.

General and Revenue Secretariat

Proceedings of a public meeting held at Davangere on 1st Septr 1946.

C-B. File No. 13 of 1946. [App. F. III-

Serial No. 13.

Letter No. S.B. 84/46-47 Dated 3rd Septr 1946 from the I.G.P.

Forwards for information of Govt. a copy of the proceedings of a public meeting held at Davangere on 1st Septr 1946 and states that the speeches of Messrs. K. Hanumanthiah and T.T. Sharma Bordev on sedition and the speeches of Messrs. T.R. Nesvi of Hubli and K. Thippanna Sastry of Gadag are objectionable.

Submd for perusal. Kind perusal is invited to the marked portions of speeches delivered by Messrs. K. Hanumanthiah T.T. Sharma, T.R. Nesvi and K. Thippanna Sastry. The last two speakers are from the adjoining Bombay Province.

4.9.46

Important portions are marked.

Min. Home & Dewan

9/9/46

Confl. 13 / 1946

File No. of 194 | General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

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C. F. No. 46] **GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE**

No. SB.84/46-47. OFFICE OF the Inspector-General of Police in Mysore, Bangalore.

Encls. (1)

SECRET

Date 3rd Septr., 46.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore, BANGALORE.

(Rec'd at 7.30 P.M. CB WD 3/9/46)

CONFIDENTIAL BRANCH, G. S. No. 1030 Date 4/9/46

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the proceedings of a public meeting held at Davanagere on 1-9-1946 under the presidentship of Mr. K.T.Jambanna, a local Congress Worker. The speeches of Messrs: K. Hanumanthiah and T.T. Sharma border on sedition and - contain passages attacking Sir T. Thamboo Chetty and - the Dewan which are extremely bad in form.

The speeches of Messrs: T.R. Nesvi (Hubli) and K. Thippanna Sastri (Gadag) are also objectionable.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Inspector-General of Police
in Mysore.

3/9/46.

PVM.

Proceedings of a public meeting held in the pendal - erected in the premises of Rajanahalli Hanumanthappa's Dharmashala, Davanagere, where the All-Karnataka Convention was held, on the evening of 1/9/1946, under the presidentship of Mr.K.T.Jambanna, Vice-President, Davanagere Town Municipality(Congress).

There was a gathering of about 700 persons including a few ladies. The meeting commenced at about 7-45 p.m.

Introduced by Mr.G.Veerappa, Vakil, Davanagere, - Mr.K.Hanumanthiah addressed the gathering to the following effect in Kannada:-

The people of Davanagere have a great regard for me and in fact had suggested my name to the presidentship of the Mysore Congress.

The value of the vote in Mysore is counterfeit as - against the sovereign value of the vote in British India. The members of Legislatures in British India have the - privilege of bringing in a vote of "No Confidence" against the Ministry in case the Ministry did not command the people's confidence. This is significantly lacking in Mysore. Therefore, a new system in Mysore had to be adopted, viz., to oppose all government bills in toto to signify 'No Confidence' in the Ministry. We did this in the recent R.A.Session at Bangalore. This method we have adopted in accordance with the one adopted by the Central Legislature of the Government of India, initiated at the instance of Motilal Nehru. The Government-sponsore newspapers began to criticise our attitude in this respect. The Mysore Government wanted to place before the Assembly 16 bills and when the first five were moved, we opposed them in toto as a result of which the government refrained from placing the other 11 bills before the - House knowing full well the result of such action. This action on our part is unparalled in the history of Legislature. Further, a memorial -

R.A.Congress Party to His Highness praying for -1) the establishment of Responsible Government in the State, 2) the grant of an elected President to the Representative Assembly, and 3) sending only elected representatives to the Constituent Assembly from the State. This memorial was signed by about 260 members out of the total - strength of 310. Though two months have elapsed no reply is received as yet to our memorial. We hope - that a reply would be received at least before the - sitting of the next session of the Representative - Assembly.

In the very first utterance of the new Dewan at Mysore and at the Press Conference held at Bangalore, he has expressed that at least a period of 6 months is required to make a study of the affairs in Mysore before giving a reply to the memorial. At this rate, each - Dewan were to require a period of 6 months or one year, then we can never expect a reply at all. In this - connection he observed " దివానగిరి చలుకుమొళ్ళువుదల్లి మైసూరిగె బరచేకె ?" This statement of the Dewan leaves us to doubt whether is it His Highness or Sir A.Ramaswamy Mudaliar who is going to grant our prayer, viz., Responsible Governmen According to his statement it is the desire of His - Highness that the Mysore Delegation of 7 members, consisting of both official and non-official members. to the Constituent Assembly should be led by the Dewan. This sort of leading a delegation is not in vogue in British India. It is rather strange that the Mysore Delegation alone should be led at all. Such sort of leading a delegation may be necessary in conferences like the U.N.O. At this rate all the major States numbering about 20 have to be led to the Consambly. This will lead to competition as others also like

Sir Mirza Ismail and Sir C.P. may demand for separate - leadership which ultimately result in the negation of a 'united voice'. Even the British Parliamentary Delegation has not suggested any leadership. This is not a healthy principle.

Now, coming to the establishment of Responsible Government in the State - His Highness on the occasion of his ascension to the Throne about six years ago conceded the democratic principle and observed "I believe in democracy and the virtues of my people". We are at a loss to understand as to why His Highness has not fulfilled his own promise. It is high time that His Highness should fulfil his promise at a time when the political atmosphere in British India is undergoing rapid - changes. The days of petitioning and begging are dying out. The correct procedure for His Highness is to - fulfil his promise; otherwise within a course of two or three months, He will be compelled to do so. We do - earnestly wish to maintain our connections with the - Royal family. It would be graceful if His Highness - grants the wishes of the people, thereby maintaining - the affection and goodwill of his subjects. By saying so, I do not intend either to threaten the Government or His Highness. We do not want to resort to violence. We will abide by the advice of Mahathma Gandhi. If - necessary, we would launch a Sathyagraha on the floor of the R.A. or even in front of the palace (claps). I have to say so with a sense of shame, being a subject of Mysore. We do not lag behind the people of Madras or

Bombay either in respect of education, industry, agriculture or loyalty. Even an extremist like myself should like to remain loyal to the Throne of Mysore. I request the Government not to force us to tresspass the limits of loyalty. The current of freedom is running too strong to be stemmed and it is therefore fitting that His Highness should create a permanent foundation based on the goodwill and affection of his subjects. Some of the advisers of His Highness do not create free access for interviews with His Highness. Such interviews are left to their own sweet will and pleasure. For instance, it took 5 months for Mr. Madhava Rao who recently retired from the Dewanship to interview His Highness; two months for Mr. Srinivasan and Mr. Pulla Reddy shared the same fate. The present Private Secretary, Sir T.Thamboo Chetty has so to say built up an impregnable fort around the person of His Highness. Our present ruler is really a constitutional monarch just as we have in England. When such is the case of big personages like Messrs. Madhava Rao, Srinivasan etc. what will be the fate of the leaders of public opinion? The first stumbling-block in the way of establishment of Responsible Government in Mysore is Sir Thamboo Chetty. This fact has been disclosed to me by some responsible Government Officers. Interviews are very difficult even for Government Officers, Unless and until Sir Thamboo Chetty quits his office and is replaced by an I.C.S. Officer, the achievement of Responsible Government cannot even be dreamt of. Mr. Todhunter was unlike the present Private Secretary. I could quote 100 instances where he has used his influence preventing interviews even with Government Officers. His influence seems to be far greater

than His Highness himself. I have no individual hatred against the person of Sir Thamboo Chetty. Let he and his sons prosper. Let him join the Congress and serve the country. If I am prosecuted in a Court of Law, I would cite as witnesses all those Government Officers who have suffered and who have told me personally that Sir Thamboo Chetty is an unsurmountable obstacle to all - public aspirations. I have to repeat this many many times. I will also be pressing this matter on the floor of the R.A.

I once remarked to an officer friend: "ధీర్ఘసూత్రుడుపంత్రిపుంగవ పరంపరలకు మంత్రి వాలాయితం" which came to be true in future. The Dewan and his then Ministers left the scene one - after another. The Congress will earnestly work for the removal of Sir Thamboo Chetty, certainly not because of any individual hatred but on a matter of principle. How many times should extension of service be granted to him and how long would he like to continue in his Office? There seems to be no limit to his continuance. Let him no more work against the legitimate aspirations of the people. It is surprising to know from intimate and influential men and officers that Sir Thamboo Chetty is a man of the type who is easily upset and is averse to hear patiently the legitimate demand of the - people, for instance the demand of Responsible Government in the State. This is no story but all a fact. He is like the priest who would never allow devotees to have a darshan of the God, just like the proverb goes - " దేవుడువర మీయడు పూజారివర మీయడు ". It is, therefore, timely and graceful that Sir Thamboo

Chetty goes home at the earliest. It is a matter of great doubt whether our Memorial to His Highness has ever reached His Highness at all. I will move this matter again in the R.A. as the people are the embodiment of God "ಜನಾರ್ದನ"

None need worry over the achievement of Responsible Government. When the British Imperialism has granted freedom, it is certainly not difficult to attain our desired goal of Responsible Government. Mere determination and asking will do to achieve Responsible Government, ..Within a course of six months. All of you know that Atom Bomb is just the creation of the MIND, and is, therefore, the child of the MIND.

(Continued in next page)

the child of the MIND. There is nothing greater in this world than a MASTER MIND. All depends upon the making up of such a MASTER MIND, which is quite possible if only there is DETERMINATION to back it. Nothing is impossible for the MASTER MIND. A look at the neighbouring British Indian Provinces will open our eyes to what we can achieve. My only appeal to His Highness is just this - May His Highness not lose his sovereignty and May His Highness not stick to prestige, as it is no longer possible to rule over the people in the old fashion. May His Highness not be guided by advisers like Sir A.Ramaswami Modaliar and Sir Thamboo Chetty, but be solely pleased to listen and act according to the wishes of the people's representatives. It is time that advisers like Sir A.Ramaswami Modaliar and Sir Thamboo Chetty be removed at the earliest.

Some Government-sponsored newspapers are making a case for the establishment of a Reforms Committee, which would only be an excuse for delaying tactics. If the necessity for the establishment of Responsible Government is keenly felt, there would be no room for a Reforms Committee or for instituting any sort of enquiries. It is in the power of His Highness, as per the existing Mysore Constitution alone to choose his own advisers reflecting the opinion of the people and thus enable the natural establishment of Responsible Government in an automatic manner. This does not call for elaborate establishment of a Reforms Committee etc. The enlargement of adult suffrage is also possible as per the existing Mysore Constitution Act, in a Government which is responsible to the people. Gone are the days for the people to heed to the establishment of a Reforms Committee as envisaged by Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer. Congress will oppose tooth and nail, to the establishment of such a Reforms Committee.

The present Ministry should be removed in toto and be replaced by popular ministers. In this matter the Rulers

could copy the procedure adopted by Viceroy Wavell, who has formed the Government with popular ministry. There is no necessity to change the constitution in order to part power to the people; only change of outlook and mentality are - required. Please do not mistake for making an impassioned speech. I mean, in all seriousness, that this counterfeit Mysore vote should be transformed into a sovereign vote, in order that the people's kingdom may be possessed. I exhort you to determine yourselves and steel your minds to join - hands with the Congress in its programme of action, in order to achieve our desired goal of freedom."

...

Nextly, Mr.T.TATAGHAR SHARMA (Ex-Editor, "Viswakarnataka' of BANGALORE), addressed the gathering to the following effect

"The previous speaker has already hinted and surveyed the ground I wanted to cover in my speech. The priest of the temple has become the biggest obstacle in the way of the = darshan of God. The previous speaker doubted whether the Memorial submitted by R.A. members ever reached His Highness at all. To clear his doubts and to substantiate his expression I would give my personal experience, which will speak for - itself. The previous Dewan Mr. Madhava Rao served Mysore for more than 30 years and in the end he had a sudden fall, - retiring earlier than the expiry of the contract for Dewanship. Knowing him fully well since 27 years, he is in the position of a father to me. With all that, in his official career, he is in the position of any enemy, while I stand in the position of an humble patriot. On the verge of his retirement, he killed a representative paper "Viswakarnataka" which was - already killed thrice. He did not know that he could kill the body and never the spirit. What is the secret behind his retirement before the period of contract for Dewanship - expired, and what is the reason behind the hurried evacuation of the Dewan's quarters prior to the actual retirement date of the Dewan? We have to see deep into the significance of

since over 23 years. There is no other alternative and remedy for all these evils, except the removal of such paid officers of Government, and the immediate realisation of democratic principles. Newspapers are considered by all nations as the 'FOURTH ESTATE' of a particular nation, and such popular newspapers are sought to be stifled.

For a letter I addressed to the authorities- Private Secretary to His Highness- seeking for an interview directly with His Highness, as I was in distress, a reply was - received in the negative over a delay of one month, signed in a facsimile, and that too as "For Asst. Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore". That is the fate of myself who is considered to represent a popular newspaper. Being a man of stubborn type, I wrote another letter whether the authorities are not in the habit of bringing to the notice of His Highness the correspondence written by popular men. This alarmed the authorities a bit and a prompt reply in a nicer tone, was received intimating that a personal talk with the authorities would seem better in the matter of clarification of the doubts expressed by me in my letter, fixing the date as 31st of August. I wrote back to say that the date - 31st August - would not suit as an important convention at Davanagere was being ~~being~~ held, and that any date in the - second week of September would suit me. The date is now - fixed for interview on the 11th Sept. at 9-30 a.m., the - details of which I will shortly let you know, if necessary. The paper "Viswakarnataka" was stopped on account of the headline comments in the paper, bringing into light the - rampant corruption and favouritism prevailing in the Services. I collected statistics or rationing irregularities and came into possession of a copy of special permit issued in favour of Sir Thamboo Chetty authorising him to transport 4 bags of rice and 3 maunds of sugar from Mysore to Bangalore. as a permanent feature every month. This was let in the R.A. - through the mouthpiece of Mr. M.N. Jois. At this instance,

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sensation was created and the authorities knowing fully well that the special permit pertained to Mr. Thamboo Chetty. - In the evening I put the facts in the paper, indicating that the issue of such a special permit was a travesty of - justice, when 75 lakhs of Mysoreans were put into tight food situation in the country. The authorities were inflamed at this publication, and also had not guts either to prosecute Mr. M.N.Jois or me. The authorities were awaiting the - return of the Dewan Mr. Madhava Rao from Delhi. Immediately on his arrival, the Director of Food Supplies, the Dewan and the Private Secretary discussed the situation and action to be taken against me and the paper. Sir Thamboo Chetty - advocated for the confiscation of the popular paper. The paper was, however, suspended for one year. Again the paper is suspended since 4 months over an editorial comment - exposing the corruption of the District Magistrate, Mysore District and the general corruption prevailing in the States. I should have been prosecuted if the facts disclosed were - untrue. But no such thing was done. On the other hand, cover was taken under the D.I.R. and the popular daily was suppressed. The Dewan and the Private Secretary of His - Highness behaved in this respect like a super-autocrat and killed a popular daily newspaper. It is therefore right and timely that persons like Sir Tamboo Chetty and his paid associates and subordinates who are paid servants be removed at once and replaced. Sir Thamboo Chetty receives a high salary and this is his usefulness to the people in return. It is expeditious for the people therefore to develop the determination of mind suited to the signs of the times. - which should compel easy and free access or interviews of the popular leaders with His Highness, without any intermediary to place onstacles to such interviews, especially in view of the announcement of the Maharaja- 'I believe in the principle of Democracy, and in the virtues of my - people'. What all we ask for is that the Ministers be -

elected and one of them to be elected as the Prime Minister. Gone are the days of petitioning and begging. These are the days to demand our rights and snatch them willy nilly. The first thing to be attended to when the people get power, is to proclaim the essential freedom of the press, which has come to be called as the "Fourth Estate" as per the statement- "Democracy can never be saved without the Fourth Estate". Without this Fourth Estate, people cannot expect either to be fed properly or to sleep in calm, or any public and useful activities to be carried on without obstruction. Freedom of the press and freedom of the people go hand in hand. I therefore sincerely pray the Almighty to grant you all the strength necessary to consolidate your position and thereby attain your desired objective."

...

Mr.Mulka Govinda Reddy, speaking next urged upon the necessity of sending only the elected members to the Consambly and to put forth all possible efforts towards that end.

Mr. T.R. Nesvi (Ex-Parliamentary Secretary to the Government of Bombay) next addressed briefly to the following effect.- "When freedom is near at hand and at sight, speech seems to be out of order. The trend of Indian affairs is coming nearer to the end, and the dawn of freedom is well in sight. None could stem the strong current of freedom. Even a child knows that all is not well in respect of the Mysore administration which is not being carried on according to popular will. I have nothing more to add except to insist that a last warning by the people is necessary. At a time when the people's will is conceded to remain uppermost, it is really shameful that a ruler should sit above the heads of the people to rule his people, which is against nature.

Profound will-power is being developed in India at the instance of Mahathma Gandhi. When Gandhiji uttered 'Quit India', there was a tremendous unsurge of national

national feelings, and even cowards become brave. Similar tone is apparent even in the will-power of Mysore. What all is required at the present is a final challenge and 'last warning', by united action of the people. There is no use in indulging in abusive language over what the Government does nor does not do. The Government is always noted for its thick-skin attitude, and it is no use in doting over its inaction and response. It is time to claim 'Equality, Fraternity and Liberty' which is the crv of the people everywhere, at present. There is time and place for everything. The World-power is astir and suitable action is required to go ahead to reach your goal. Freedom is not got without a fight for it. However, freedom is bound to dawn willy-nilly, in accordance with the force of world events. A last warning giving 3 to 6 months time is all that is necessary for the present. In the wake of 'Akhand Karnatak' which will be a free unit in the Indian comity, the Princely order will be out of date. It is also a fact that more the repression of the people, more progress is achieved by the people. The days of the Princes and Rulers are dying out and the days of the people are dawning. I assure you that All-Karnatak will give you all support and sympathy in your rightful and timely efforts to achieve your objective.

Lastly Mr.Kalli Thippanna Sastry speaking briefly, drew the attention of the gathering to the fact that Karnatak was gradually being united and making its progressive steps wend its onward march towards freedom, which was significant by the holding of an All-Karnatak Convention at Davanagere.

The speaker next stressed the achievement of Mahathma Gandhi in having developed the will-power of the populace and diseminated the message of universal love, in miraculously short time, ultimately resulting in the dawn of Indian freedom, during his own life-time. He added that the resistance of Princely Order was to

insignificant to stem the irresistible current of freedom running throughout the length and breadth of India, and that the state of affairs augur well for the freedom of the States also, which do not seem to be far off. The moment the people of the States feel they are ready for the march of freedom or for enjoying the fruit of freedom, the - speaker continued, help will pour into the States from all parts of Karnataka, to enable the people to achieve their goal, for which their tradition and God's grace have both combined in good time to earn for them the desired and - deserved fruits of their labour."

The meeting terminated at 11 O'Clock in the night.

The congregation was about 700 strong, including a few ladies.

The speeches were all made in Kannada, and were - received with claps of hands, applause and sometimes - laughter.

Sd. Y.Krishnamurthi Rao,

Stenographer,
District Police Office, Chitaldrug.

Davanagere,
Septr.2, 1946.

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